

Evolutionary Inspiration and its Heretical Results

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7/20/21

A Response to Craig S Keener's paper at
<https://craigkeener.com/women-in-ministry/>:
Was Paul For or Against Women in Ministry?
A teaching made available in IHOP

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Part 1: Different Kinds of Heretical Inspiration and how they relate to one another:

Inspirational Learning: *“Further, we Pentecostals and charismatics affirm that the minister’s authority is inherent in the minister’s calling and ministry of the Word, not the minister’s person. In this case, gender should be irrelevant as a consideration for ministry—for us as it was for Paul.”* To clarify, within the Pentecostal Holiness movement there are churches that have a view of inspirational learning, where the Apostle or Prophet’s word may be interpreted as from the minister’s person. That is that Scripture is inspired by God and sometimes inspired by man, it is a co-operative work, not wholly of God not wholly of man. God allows the erroneous opinions of man within the Word of God. When it comes to all things most necessary for godliness, inspired. But when it comes to social issues or science, not always inspired.

For this they may be allowed to believe in the heretical theory of an old earth, which makes Jesus a liar, for he spoke of Adam and Eve as, from the beginning. Or, argue that Paul can give his own opinion swayed by the opinions of others when he spoke of slavery or women’s head coverings. The doctrine bears bad fruit.

As the apostle or Prophet learned, his supposed errors were not omitted from the Bible. Subtly, by acknowledging these kinds of errors in the Scriptures, this is used to say that this is the way the prophets learn to be a prophet, through their mistakes. Although the Bible consistently says the very opposite concerning prophets and the Scriptures themselves. Their lie allows them to continue in the pride of the Pharisee for the multiplication of all kinds of damnable false prophecies and blasphemous doctrines. They can make almost any kind of mistake and still be considered a prophet.

This doctrine of prophecy that has changed from Deut. 13:5 to the very opposite within the Pentecostal movement has subsequently allowed for the confirmation of a new doctrine, the doctrine of Inspirational Evolution. The deceived are so distracted with signs and wonders, true and false, they could never know what a lying false prophet is even if they caught him red handed and he slapped them in the face. They even base the second coming on a sign (Zechariah 12:10), thou Jesus said: *“The Pharisees also with the Sadducees came, and tempting desired him that he would shew them a sign from heaven. 2He answered and said unto them, When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red. 3And in the morning, It will be foul weather to day: for the sky is red and lowring. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times? 4A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas. And he left them, and departed.”*

Inspirational Evolution: Some churches believe that God’s revelation is evolving, that if you just read the Bible you have been left behind in old revelation. For example, each book is written to some other church in some other age. Such is the case with the Bethel church of Bill Johnson.

But Johnson is deceptive, what appears to be correct at first glance is not. He walks a very thin line saying most all things that can be taken two different ways most of the time. Those that love him will not make

assumptions. Those that unbiasedly test him will know the truth of what he is saying or not saying. Most Christians are not equipped to discern false prophecy, they never have been given the opportunity to exercise that gift, or it may have been discouraged by their elders. For example, he argues that God “wants to take us farther and we can only get there by following signs. Our present understanding of Scripture can only take us so far”. Johnson encourages Christians to stop focusing on “our need to protect ourselves from deception” and instead “our hunger for Him must be seen in our lustful pursuit of spiritual gifts”. He criticizes the church for “living according to an intellectual approach to the Scriptures void of the Holy Spirit’s influence” which leads to “a false sense of security”. Instead, we are told “to follow Him, we must be willing to follow off the map—to go beyond what we know”. Sound familiar? Jude 3? In any case the doctrine of Evolutionary Inspiration does exist and Keener’s paper here is a perfect example. If you are versed in Scripture alone, only then would you know the difference, Eph. 4:14. [12]

By acknowledging that there is an evolutionary process in the Scriptures that is dependent on man, this opens the door to expand the doctrine to Man Dependent Inspiration.

Man Dependent Inspiration Defined: Keener writes: “By contrast, those who identified everything in the Bible’s culture with the Bible’s message were obligated both to accept slavery and reject women’s ministry.” God was not obligated to accept sinful trends into the Bible to draw men into His kingdom. Scripture is not constructed on a foundation of cultural blunders or the whims of sinners, so that Paul would need to tip toe around certain issues until society was ready to change, and thereafter the church could follow suit, where Paul could then change back 1 Tim. 2:13,14 to read more like 2 Cor. 11:3. Keener imagines a God and Bible that does not exist, See Romans 9:19, John 6:44, 66. Jesus simply said it like it is. That is the reason why they went out to stone him, and why he was crucified.

By this method of inspiration Scripture is demonstrated that it is evolving from one age to the next in the way Bill Johnson believes; It is actually the man side of Inspirational Evolution. Man Dependent Inspiration exists because of a lack of faith in God’s word; God is too small, not on the throne, and not in control. Rather man’s feelings play the important role in God’s decisions and revelations. God is limited by man. Man is not a slave to God, God is a slave to man. God is not Sovereign, yet man is expected to be so by force.

Part 2: More on Man Dependent Inspiration.

Man Dependent Inspiration In Action; Temporary Ad-Hoc Doctrines: Keener writes: “What particularly causes many scholars to question this otherwise logical case is Paul’s following argument, where he based his case on the roles of Adam and Eve (1 Timothy 2:13,14). Paul’s argument from the creation order, however, was one of the very arguments he earlier used to contend that women should wear head coverings (1 Corinthians 11:7–9). In other words, Paul sometimes cited Scripture to make an ad hoc case for particular circumstances that he would not apply to all circumstances. Although Paul often makes universal arguments from the Old Testament, he sometimes (as with head coverings) makes a local argument by analogy.” What Keener is admitting is actually the very opposite, that if he did it once he will do it again. Problem is that he never did it once in the first place, head coverings are not obsolete, they still exist spiritually for every true Christian under Christ who is a woman, and if allowed, literally. Heaven does not recognize a woman without a head covering, 1 Cor. 11:10. To deny head covering is to despise authority (2 Peter 2:10, 1 Cor. 11:3) and one’s office in the church of Christ (Hebrews 10:29, Psalm 2:3), judgement is sure to follow. But Keener is trying to say that since a head covering no longer exists literally as clothing as well as it no longer exists spiritually thus nullifying 1 Cor. 11:3 which reads: *But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.*” And that therefore when Paul writes Scriptural analogies, it may be questioned that it is only for a special purpose and end presently under consideration. Namely to allow Women the cultural opportunity under Christendom to Learn and become equal to men in their office. As gracious as Keener makes Paul out to be, he cannot do so without at the same time making him out to be a flim-flam man. These Christians who follow Keener are so deceived they do not even know that a liar is one who says one thing as a fact from the beginning of time, yet actually means the very opposite! Christendom has not been following false prophets and liars for 2000 years, why do we need to follow them now in order to find the truth? Perhaps the snake in the Garden was right after all, God knows something that only the snake can explain it to us! BTW, I do not know who these “many scholars” are, but they are no scholars at all, 2 John.

Keener writes “By contrast, those who identified everything in the Bible’s culture with the Bible’s message were obligated both to accept slavery and reject women’s ministry.” Keener wants to hook head coverings and all that goes with it to slavery for the elimination of both by way of saying that since they are literally obsolete, now they are Spiritually obsolete as well. Slavery of Blacks in America is not the same as the Slavery in the true Israel, as would be supposed by Keener’s lack of clarification. But who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven but the servant? Matt. 10:43 NKJV “... whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant.” Slavery has Biblical regulations for being set free, John 8:35. Christians are now slaves of Christ, slavery still exists. But in the Bible slave-ship and sonship are similar, Gal. 4:1. You must be a slave to the world or a slave to Christ.

Man Dependent Inspiration Exemplified by Sympathy for Charles Finney And Holiness:

“Increasingly, secular thinkers attack Christianity as against women and thus irrelevant to the modern world. The Assemblies of God and other denominations birthed in the Holiness and Pentecostal revivals affirmed women in ministry long before the role of women became a secular or liberal agenda.¹ Likewise, in the historic missionary expansion of the 19th century, two-thirds of all missionaries were women. The 19th-century women’s movement that fought for women’s right to vote originally grew from the same revival movement led by Charles Finney and others who advocated the abolition of slavery.” Christianity, or Judaism for that matter, is not to be measured by its relevance to the modern world, the flesh or the devil. But Keener says that the Holiness movement that believes in a second work of grace can meet that need. Finney or the Holiness movement has nothing good to do with it anyway. Finney was a heretic and believed in a necessary second work of grace: *“It was a volitional state of consecration of oneself to God. Sin, defined as selfishness or self-gratification, would never be able to co-exist with it. According to Finney, entire sanctification is a permanent state.”* [11.]

Man Dependent Inspiration Exemplified by Paul’s Sympathy: Keener asserts that Paul was appealing to social norms rather than divine revelation, a practice forbidden by the Scriptures---The church and the nation of Israel are shown in the Scriptures to be a people set apart from the world in holiness by God, not bowing to social errors. If not, then God separates the wheat from the tares as he did at Mt. Sinai.

Man Dependent Inspiration Exemplified by Keener’s Sympathy: After Keener proves Paul was appealing to social norms, he now has the authority to do the same. Keener echoes the version of Paul he has created. Keener uses arguments where the child of God needs to measure himself by his sympathy and social feelings in the world, inciting the church by worldly wisdom in the same way that the serpent spoke to Eve in the Garden of Eden. *“For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.”* Keener asks the Christian to consider truth based on his feelings and the feelings of the world concerning what is fair or unfair, not by unbiased obedience to the Word of God. In this way Keener blasphemes God and usurps His holy Word.

Man Dependent Inspiration Exemplified by Your Sympathy: Keener writes: *“The question of a woman’s role in ministry is a pressing concern for today’s church.”* Keener’s question is not a pressing concern for today’s church, anymore then it was for yesterday’s church, anymore then for the church of Paul. Paul has simply explained Genesis 3, not yesterday’s church, or what could now be outdated information for today’s church. Keener is implying that Paul is twisting Scripture, and thus giving himself a license to “do the same”, play with the doctrine of the fall of mankind the foundation of Christendom, and all for the sake of establishing a socially appealing Gospel.

Man Dependent Inspiration Exemplified by No Sympathy for the True Paul: Paul says *“For Adam was first formed, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.”* 1 Timothy 2:13,14. Keener says *“Paul ... elsewhere used Eve for anyone who is deceived, not just women (2 Corinthians 11:3).²⁷”* Keener wants us to cancel 1 Timothy 2:14 thinking to bring us up to date into today’s church to a new 2 Corinthians 11:3 thinking. According to Keener thinking, at the time Paul wrote 1 Tim. 2:13-14 he was giving into the backward social norms of the times when women were uneducated in order to get his gospel planted into the world where it would grow, bear fruit, and become what it is today. Paul was using Genesis 3 as a tool, yet in the same way as would his contemporaries. He is showing his creativity. Paul is really

exaggerating in 1 Tim. 2:14 and Keener uses 2 Corinthians 11:3 to prove how Paul was being subjective to his hearers in one place, but not in another, he's flexible. Paul's long-term solution is to bring the whole church to a correct way of thinking.

Man Dependent Inspiration Exemplified by Short-Range Solutions, Temporary Submission:

"Women were the most susceptible to false teaching only because they had been granted the least education. This behavior was bound to bring reproach on the church from a hostile society that was already convinced Christians subverted the traditional roles of women and slaves.²⁶ So Paul provided a short-range solution: "Do not teach" (under the present circumstances); and a long-range solution: "Let them learn" (1 Timothy 2:11). Today we read, "learn in silence," and think the emphasis lies on "silence." That these women were to learn "quietly and submissively" may reflect their witness within society (these were characteristics normally expected of women). But ancient culture expected all beginning students (unlike advanced students) to learn silently; that was why women were not supposed to ask questions (as noted above). The same word for "silence" here is applied to all Christians in the context (2:2). Paul specifically addressed this matter to women for the same reason he addressed the admonition to stop disputing to the men (2:8): They were the groups involved in the Ephesian churches. Again it appears that Paul's long-range plan was to liberate, not subordinate, women's ministry. The issue is not gender but learning God's Word." What must be concluded from the Keener way is not that Paul had a short and long range plan for women, but rather that Paul was a liar and a false prophet. Keener implies that the things that Paul wrote about Adam and Eve were false, and he only did so to liberate women with his short-range and long-range plan. Mohammad too has a short and long-range plan; Befriend the Christians, and later when you are in the majority tax them, then kill them. If Paul's plan was to teach the Word of God, that women already had equal authority he would simply say so using Genesis, the serpent, and the fall of man.-----not stand it on its head and expect the church future to understand he was a liar and a false prophet making it Scriptural to use deceptive means to reveal the truth.-----Neither the Scriptures nor God are flexible in the way Keener pretends. God is holy and sends people to Hell for changing His word.

Man Dependent Inspiration Exemplified by Short-Range Solutions; It Applies Sometimes, different situations: *"Paul commended them and included commendations to women apostles."* Women apostles are not found in the NT any more than women priests or female circumcision is found in the OT. Keener also writes: *"Paul, in some cases, advocated women's ministry, we cannot read his restrictions on women in ministry as universal prohibitions. Rather, as in the case of head coverings in Corinth, Paul addressed a specific cultural situation. This is not to say that Paul here or anywhere else wrote Scripture that was not for all time. It is merely to say that he did not write it for all circumstances and that we must take into account the circumstances he addressed to understand how he would have applied his principles in very different situations."* Paul said that women were to cover their heads because of the angels, and that likewise it was a shame for men to cover their heads, and that nature itself taught the same. The covering still spiritually exists today among the elect who are being conformed to the image of Christ.

Man Dependent Inspiration Exemplified by Short-Range Solutions; It Applies Sometimes, Marriage: Keener wants to say that the head covering today is neither figurative or littoral, but later admits that it can apply if one is married. Yet in doing so he contradicts himself. *"Some have protested that women should not hold authority over men because men are the head of women. Aside from the many debates about the meaning of the Greek term "head" (for instance, some translate it "source" instead of "authority over"),²⁸ Paul spoke only of the husband as head of his wife, not of the male gender as head of the female gender."* Keener has just admitted temporarily that the Man is the head of the Wife (Eph. 5:23) in order to make his point that not all in Adam are the head. He is contradicting himself. BTW, I cannot imagine sitting under so many endless "debates" when there is nothing to debate, in such a case it is not a debate but a demonic conspiracy made in order to invent false teachings and teachers.

Man Dependent Inspiration Exemplified by Short-Range Solutions; It Applies Sometimes, Rom. 16, Phil. 4: *"In any case, here Paul also forbade women to "teach," something he apparently allowed elsewhere (Romans 16; Philippians 4:2,3). Thus he presumably addressed the specific situation in this community."* Those verses do not prove that these women were pastors somewhere else.

Man Dependent Inspiration Exemplified by Revelation of the Long-Range Solutions; Equality in Authority: *"In 1 Timothy 2:11–15, Paul forbade women to teach or exercise authority over men. Most supporters of women in ministry think that the latter expression means "usurp authority,"²³ something Paul would not want men to do any more than women, but the matter is disputed."* This is a perfect example of twisting Scripture. Paul is talking specific and Keener tries to turn it into a general teaching about usurping authority that applies to men and women equally.

Man Dependent Inspiration Exemplified by Revelation of the Long-Range Solution; Equality in Genders: *"If Eve's deception prohibits all women from teaching, Paul would be claiming that all women, like Eve, are more easily deceived than all men. (One wonders, then, why he would allow women to teach other women, since they would deceive them all the more.) If, however, the deception does not apply to all women, neither does his prohibition of their teaching."* In other words, Paul is a Snake in the Grass, or am I calling the true Paul and God a snake in the grass because I misunderstand God's true intentions or Paul's true intentions? Has Paul been so mysterious for 2000 years that no one can understand him despite the pleadings of the Holy Spirit? Have the Scriptures been that difficult to understand? If so, what else has Paul said that we have misunderstood. The possibilities are endless with Keener, as I have demonstrated below when it comes to his mishandling of the fall of man and the implications he makes on the atonement, not to mention his method of interpretation.

Keener writes: *"Today we read "learn in silence" and think the emphasis lies on "silence." That these women are to learn "quietly and submissively" may reflect their witness within society (these were characteristics normally expected of women). But ancient culture expected all beginning students (unlike advanced students) to learn silently; for that matter, the same word for "silence" here is applied to all Christians in the context (2:2). Paul specifically addresses this matter to women for the same reason he addresses the admonition to stop disputing to the men (2:8): they are the groups involved in the Ephesian churches. Again it appears that Paul's long-range plan is to liberate, not subordinate, women's ministry. The issue is not gender, but learning God's Word."* 2 Tim. 2:2 demonstrates 1 Cor. 11:3 which reads: *But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.*, that all are under someone's authority, not the very opposite, that all are created equal. Keener writes *"But ancient culture expected all beginning students (unlike advanced students) to learn silently"* If that is the way to learn then why were they not to remain silent when they got home? Learning in silence does not work, Paul never recommended it. But Keener recommends it so he can make his point, and in so doing he contradicts Paul.

Part 3. Results of Heretical Inspiration.

Reaping the Fruit of False Prophecy: Homosexuality: Another problem that arises is that Adam and Eve are not the same person, if this was true, then someone like Keener could make a case for homosexuality if it merely has nothing to do with gender. In the spiritual state there is no difference in the genders someone like Keener could argue, Gal. 3:28. The sexes no longer complement one another, those differences become nullified, the end result is a nonbinary Law for women and men, they are both one and the same. Women no longer need men to lead them and Men no longer need to lead the Women, there is no need for a unity of the sexes, but rather homosexuality is the perfect solution. This is because God created Adam and Eve to intentionally have differences to complement one another, see the word Genesis 2:18 "help meet" in the Hebrew literally *"a help meet that is against him"* for example. [13]

Reaping the Fruit of False Prophecy: Atonement: Keener wants to make the serpent in the Garden and the fall of man more friendly. All mankind is equally in the Eve category in the fall of mankind. Neither Adam or Eve sinned deliberately. But this then begs the question, does the atoning sacrifice in the Garden of Eden cover deliberate sin? Genesis 3:6 would appear to say that the atonement does not cover deliberate sin, since the promise in Genesis 3:15, 16 now has only to do with two transgressors who were merely deceived, which is not so great a sin as sinning deliberately. To back this up the Holiness Movement and the second work of Grace then may offer man a change to live the Christian life in a state of total salvation, where they no longer sin. Thanks to Keener thinking there is no need of sacrifices in the Old Testament for *intentional* sins. (These were sins for which a "trespass / guilt offering" was to be given.) Most "trespass /

guilt offerings” were for unintentional sins. But John said in 1 John 1:8 *“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”* Jesse Morall, a famous youtube street evangelist and an advocate for this position believes that saved Christians do not sin anymore, nor does man have a sinful nature.

Blindly Embracing Inspiration: A typical response to these arguments from within the Pentecostal movement is *“Why do you want to cause division in the church?”*, with a reference to 1 Cor. 1-4. There are endless verses in the Bible about false teachers, even God Himself sending such to separate the sheep from the goats, Acts 20:30, Deut. 13:3. Today’s mixed multitude is so puffed up with their deceptions that they have no idea how to test the spirits nor do they care to do so. The result is a church blown about by every wind of doctrine, from every false prophet that speaks.

Wrath Upon the False Inspiration: Such a view of Scripture as we have seen above allows men to fall into heretical teachings. These views on the inspiration of Scripture are simply heretical and fall under the shadow of the curses found in Revelation 22:19. They imply that the Word of God, which is a representation of Jesus Christ, is with fault before the throne of God.

Part 4. True Biblical Inspiration.

True Biblical Authority and Inspiration: The orthodox view of inspiration says that all of God’s word is inspired equally for all time, and that man ultimately has nothing to do with its conclusions, other than the style of the message. For example, the Scriptures use the same word for the storm moving the ship in Acts 27:17 as when it says men were moved by the Holy Spirit in 2 Peter 1:21.

Notes:

11. https://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1209&context=wes_theses Conclusions II pg 60: J.

12. <https://au.thegospelcoalition.org/article/price-awakening-examining-theology-practice-bethel-movement/>

13. LoveIsrael.org Genesis 2 part 2 on youtube.com